



TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURE ARTICLE

2020 economic outlook: What should entrepreneurs expect?

INNOVATION

Aitken Frame Homes Featured on Dragon's Den!

Enterprise Brant and Raw Carrot: Helping a Certified Social Enterprise

NEWS & COMMUNITY

Ministerial Mandate Letters

Make a Difference - Canada's Volunteer Awards

The Road to the 2021 Census

ACROSS ONTARIO

Registration is open. Come join the discussion!

Community Futures Oxford to launch Thrive Oxford, a program to support female entrepreneurs starting and growing a sustainable business

LESSONS LEARNED & BEST PRACTICES

The Legacy of the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition

HR & CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Congratulations to Trenval Business Development Corporation's Loans Officer!

Northeastern Ontario Development Network of Community Futures Development Corporations (NEDN) Welcomes New Program Coordinator!

WOCFDCA hires first-ever Executive Director

Season's Greetings!

FEATURE ARTICLE

>> 2020 economic outlook: What should entrepreneurs expect?



[Learn more](#)

Canadian entrepreneurs should benefit from an uptick in the real estate market, residential investment and household consumption, but global uncertainty will continue to weigh down on economic growth.

INNOVATION

>> Aitken Frame Homes Featured on Dragon's Den!



Muskoka Futures is proud of the businesses we have supported and all that they are accomplishing!
WAY TO GO!....

Aitken Frame Homes was featured on a special episode of Dragon's Den - Disrupt Den recently... [click to check out what happened!](#)

>> Enterprise Brant and Raw Carrot: Helping a Certified Social Enterprise



This business had already started when Raw Carrot was approached to put inventory in Farm Boy. Enterprise Brant was able to fund them through Special Projects for the laboratory work required for grocery store shelving as well as packaging development. Enterprise Brant is very proud of our role with the RAW CARROT.



The Raw Carrot partners with churches and nonprofits across Ontario to create meaningful employment for amazingly talented individuals living with disAbilities and mental health illness. We're "stirring up" change in local communities through our delicious, handcrafted gourmet soup.

NEWS & COMMUNITY

>> Ministerial Mandate Letters

Honorable Mélanie Joly

Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages Mandate Letter

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/mandate-letters/minister-economic-development-and-official-languages-mandate-letter>

Honorable Maryam Monsef

Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development Mandate Letter

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/mandate-letters/minister-women-and-gender-equality-and-rural-economic-development-mandate-letter>

Honorable Mary Ng

Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mandate Letter

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/mandate-letters/minister-small-business-export-promotion-and-international-trade-mandate-letter>

>> Make a Difference - Canada's Volunteer Awards



Volunteer Recognition at the Heart of Canada's Volunteer Awards Program

Celebrating Canadians who make a difference is an important part of inspiring the current and next generation of volunteers.

Currently, top-ranked nominations for the 2019 cycle are being assessed and the award recipients will be announced and celebrated at a ceremony in Ottawa during National Volunteer Week. Stay tuned for more details!

International Volunteer Day is December 5, 2019

On December 5th, 2018, a ceremony was held in Ottawa to celebrate 21 Canada's Volunteer Awards recipients who also participated in a forum to share their best practices while discussing social responsibility through volunteerism and enterprise. Click here to read the report.

The recently released 2018 *Report of the Special Senate Committee on the Charitable Sector* highlights key issues concerning volunteerism and the charitable sector in Canada, including the importance of volunteer recognition programs. Read the full Senate Report [here](#).

On December 5th, CVA joins the world in recognizing the outstanding efforts that volunteers businesses, social enterprises and non-profit organizations demonstrate in improving the well-being of people and communities across Canada. Celebrate volunteers and thank them for their significant contributions both in person and on social media. #VolunteerAwards #MadeADifference #IVD2019

Get Involved

During the next call for nominations, we invite you to recognize the great efforts of individuals, businesses, social enterprises and non-profit organizations in building strong communities through submitting a nomination. Learn more about the nomination process [here](#).

Did you know that you can also volunteer with CVA as a Regional Reviewer (RR)? RR's play an important role in assessing eligible nominations of volunteers, businesses and not-for-profit organizations. They identify the top-ranked nominations for assessment by the National Advisory Committee. Regional Reviewers' recruitment is open all your round. Please inform us of your interest by contacting the CVA Program.

Questions? Please contact us at 1-877-825-0434 or by email at Info-cva-pbc@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca.

Kind Regards,

The CVA Unit

www.canada.ca/volunteer-awards

>> The Road to the 2021 Census



The year 2020 is fast approaching, and with it, the 2021 Census. Statistics Canada is busy consulting with Canadians and preparing the strategies to ensure its success.

We look forward to providing you with the high-quality census data we are known for. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy our many 2016 Census products, as well as the data from our many surveys.

Here's a quick look at some of our key milestones!

ACROSS ONTARIO

>> Registration is open. Come join the discussion!

Register Now! Come North

Discussion about the challenges and expectations of Northern Regions and what we, collectively, can do to support them.

Feb 11, 12, 13 Delta Waterfront Place, Thunder Bay
Feb 18, 19 Delta Waterfront Place, Thunder Bay

comenorth.ca

>> Community Futures Oxford to launch Thrive Oxford, a program to support female entrepreneurs starting and growing a sustainable business

THRIVE OXFORD

AN INITIATIVE OF COMMUNITY FUTURES OXFORD TO SUPPORT WOMEN STARTING AND GROWING SUSTAINABLE BUSINESSES IN OXFORD COUNTY

- 6-month program with access to training from business experts
- Mentorship from seasoned women entrepreneurs
- Access to funding to achieve sustainable goals within your business model

For eligibility, applications deadlines and other information, please visit: www.cfoxford.ca/thriveoxford

Funding provided by **Libro** CREDIT UNION

Full pdf of this article.

Downloadable Postcard

Community Futures Oxford was awarded \$48,000 from Libro Credit Union Prosperity Fund to develop and deliver Thrive Oxford, a program that will support female entrepreneurs starting or growing a sustainable business in Oxford County. The program will provide training and professional support on a variety of topics selected by Community Futures Oxford based on feedback from the community. The program will be offered twice annually with up to ten women selected for each cohort. Applications open immediately on the Community Futures Oxford website.

Over the course of the program, participants will define business development goals focused on expansion and sustainability. To achieve these goals, support will be provided on topics such as financial literacy, public speaking, marketing and how to successfully secure funding. Each cohort will include a live pitch presentation for cash and in-kind prizes. Many training components will be delivered by experts from Oxford County and anyone from the community wishing to be involved in sharing their expertise can complete an Expression of Interest.

In addition to delivering the program, the funding will also be used to host a one-day workshop for all business owners interested in learning how their business can achieve sustainable outcomes. More specifically, the workshop will discuss B Corporation Certification, aligning business growth with UN Sustainable Development Goals and how these actions align with changing consumer expectations.

Lastly, Community Futures Oxford is pleased to use the funding to begin providing a formal Mentorship Program in collaboration with Oxford Women in Networking, a membership-based networking group with a 25-year history in the community. The pilot will begin in February 2020 and is currently seeking mentor and protégé applications online. Women entrepreneurs and students will be matched with seasoned business professionals to provide unique advice, support and expertise.

The Thrive Oxford program will officially launch in January 2020, but information about eligibility, application process and timelines can be found on the Community Futures Oxford website, including details about the first information session.

Comments

[Click here to read more](#)

LESSONS LEARNED & BEST PRACTICES

>> The Legacy of the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition



Exert from The Tamarack Institute's article: The Legacy of the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition

For twenty-seven years the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition (OHCC) supported Healthy Communities initiatives across Ontario and beyond. Following the loss of provincial funding in 2018, after careful consideration the OHCC Board of Directors concluded that the work of OHCC had largely been accomplished. On October 19, 2019, OHCC held it final Annual General Meeting at which members

unanimously voted to dissolve the corporation and transfer OHCC's remaining assets to Green Communities Foundation. While all were saddened by this decision, the mood of the event was very positive as members reflected on OHCC's accomplishments and confirmed their ongoing commitment to Healthy Communities.

Read the full article here: [The Legacy of the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition](#)

including this quote from Shawn Heard:

"The incredible learning experiences, the people involved, the work you do, and the sustainability model you offer are key centrepieces to my thinking and I continue to espouse their truths on a regular basis...So, to the Board and staff of OHCC, I say job well done and kudos. You have filled your mandate well and you should be rightly proud, and we will continue to use the principles, ethics, and models we have learned."

-Shawn Heard, OHCC President 1998-2004
General Manager, East Algoma Community Futures Development Corporation
President, Community Futures Ontario

HR & CAREER DEVELOPMENT

>> Congratulations to Trenval Business Development Corporation's Loans Officer!



Congratulations to Eileen Brown, loans officer at Trenval Business Development Corporation.

Eileen has completed the requirements for her "Business Analyst - Professional Designation" from Community Futures Leadership Institute and is the 2nd person in Ontario to have this designation!

For more information about the CFLI Staff Certification program visit:

<http://cfleadershipinstitute.ca/>

>> Northeastern Ontario Development Network of Community Futures Development Corporations (NEDN) Welcomes New Program Coordinator!



The Northeastern Ontario Development Network of Community Futures Development Corporations (NEDN) welcomed Holly Vukobrat as the network's Program Coordinator on November 4, 2019.

Situated in the Community Development Corporation of Sault Ste. Marie, Holly is responsible for identifying projects with regional impacts, crafting a communications strategy and distinguishing relevant trainings for Community Futures Development Corporations across the Northeastern region of Ontario. She will facilitate regular communication with FedNor, other

appropriate government departments and elected representatives.

Ms. Vukobrat is an award-winning innovative thinker who joins the network with over 5 years of experience working in administrative and research capacities for organizations such as the Sheridan College Community Studies Department, Habitat for Humanity and the Canadian Mental Health Association. Holly studies Community Economic and Social Development at Algoma University and has her diploma in Community Work – Outreach and Development.

>> WOCFDCA hires first-ever Executive Director



This past fall, Andrew Wallen, joined the WOCFDCA this fall as its first-ever Executive Director.

Andrew had served as the General Manager and CEO of the Kawartha lakes CFDC for 20 years. During his time, Andrew's accomplishments include preparing and installing the KLCFDC as the first new CFDC in Ontario since 1993, and gaining a reputation for his organization as one of the more financially sound operations in the region. He also was well regarded for developing and executing one of the most comprehensive and community-inclusive series of annual Small Business Week events which have proven to deliver for both the KLCFDC and its many partners year-after-year.

Andrew was also one of the key strategists for Community Futures Eastern Ontario. He was an architect of the positioning paper and series of presentations that brought the Eastern Ontario CFDCs the EODP Program as well as being a founding Director and serving on the Executive of

the EO CFDC Network for 14 years. He also played an instrumental role in the Broadband expansion for the region, and the creation of the SOFII Fund as well as in their latest program, the Regional Innovation Initiative for Eastern Ontario.

Andrew brings a background in advertising, marketing, sales and communication from his earlier years in the corporate world. Andrew's office will be located in the same location as Enterprise Brant and SOFII in Brantford.

>> Season's Greetings!



As 2019 draws to a close, we at Community Futures Ontario send you our warmest holiday wishes and our continued thanks. We appreciate your participation in this organization.

We proudly serve Ontario and continue to strive for excellence in our service. We look forward to 2020 and the opportunities it brings!

Happy Holidays!
Diana and Denise

The Update - Your Newsletter

Do you have feedback or story ideas for the next Update? Contact Community Futures Ontario at 1-888-633-2326 or info@cfontario.ca

Ce bulletin est également disponible en français. Veuillez communiquer avec nous à pour obtenir votre exemplaire du bulletin, Le Point.

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